

REMARKS

If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #658/49678).

Respectfully submitted,

October 9, 2001



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MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:



1. (Amended) System comprising a gear pump [(1)] and a screw-type extruder [(10)] for delivering elastomeric media, particularly caoutchouc media, which comprises a screw [(11)] and a screw casing [(12)], the screw-type extruder [(10)] being arranged in front of the gear pump [(1)] viewed in the delivery direction [(6)] of the pumping medium,

[characterized in that] wherein the screw casing [(12)] has at least one conical part [(15)], and the screw [(11)] has at least one tapering in [the] an area of the conical part [(15)], and [in that] wherein the screw [(11)] is axially displaceable in the screw casing [(12)] for the controlled feeding of energy into the pumping medium.

2. (AMENDED) System according to Claim 1,

[characterized in that] wherein the tapering of the screw [(11)] as well as the conical part [(15)] are provided on the gear-pump-side end of the screw-type extruder [(10)].

3. (AMENDED) System according to Claim 1 [or 2],

[characterized in that] wherein the tapering of the screw [(11)] increases viewed in the delivery direction [(6)] of the medium.

4. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein the screw [(11)] has a double-helix-type construction.

5. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein a tangential plane on the screw [(11)] in the area of the tapering encloses an angle of from 2 to 10, preferably 8, with the center axis of the screw [(11)].

6. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein the length of the screw [(11)] is less than five times, preferably three times, the diameter of the screw[(11)].

7. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein the screw-type extruder (10) has a cylindrical part in addition to the conical part (15).

8. (AMENDED) System according to Claim 7,

[characterized in that] wherein the ratio of the length of the conical part (15) to the length of the cylindrical part is between 1:2 to 1:5, preferably approximately 1:4.

9. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein the length of the cone (15) is less than the diameter of the screw (11).

10. (AMENDED) System according to [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein the screw (11) and/or the screw casing (12) each have one hollow space respectively with at least two openings (31, 33; 35, 36) for admitting and discharging a temperature adjusting medium (3).

11. (AMENDED) System according to [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein a filter [(20)] is provided which, viewed in the delivery direction [(6)], is arranged behind the gear pump[(1)].

12. (AMENDED) System according to [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein a metal detector [(23)] is arranged in front of the gear pump [(1)], preferably in front of the screw-type extruder [(10)], and [in that]

wherein a control unit [(22)] is provided which is operatively connected with drives of the screw [(11)] and of the gear pump [(1)] and with the metal detector [(23)].

13. (AMENDED) System according to [one of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1,

wherein the screw [(11)] projects into the case of the gear pump[(1)].

14. (AMENDED) System according to [one of Claims 11 to 13, characterized in that] Claim 11,

wherein the filter [(20)] is arranged between the gear pump [(1)] and the spraying head [(21)].

15. (AMENDED) Use of the system according to [one of Claims 1 to 14] Claim 1 for delivering elastomeric media, particularly caoutchouc.

16. (AMENDED) Method of operating the system according to [one of Claims 12 to 14, characterized in that] Claim 12,

wherein, when a metal piece is detected, the delivery of the pumping medium is interrupted in that the drives of the screw [(11)] and of the gear pump [(1)] are stopped.

17. (AMENDED) Method of operating the system according to [one of Claims 12 to 14, characterized in that] Claim 12,

wherein a detection of a metal piece is indicated to an operator who intervenes in the transport process of the pumping medium for removing the metal piece without requiring an interruption of the production process.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

A system for delivering elastomeric media comprises a gear pump and a screw-type extruder which, viewed in the delivery direction of the pumping medium, is arranged in front of the gear pump and which comprises a screw and a screw casing. The screw casing has at least one conical part, and the screw has at least one tapering in the area of the conical part. For the controlled feeding of energy into the pumping medium, the screw is axially displaceable in the screw casing.